

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ford
Docket No : 1181 US
Serial No : 09/992,981
Filing Date : 11/06/2001
Examiner : Fleming
Confirm. # : 7661
Grp./A.U. : 3616
Title : Driver Side Airbag with a Baffle



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GROUP 3600

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In response to an Office Action dated 04/02/2002, applicants wish the examiner reexamine said patent application in light of the remarks submitted herewith.

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

A. 35 U.S.C. §102

The examiner rejected claims 1-5, 10-14, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nelson et al. In the Office Action on the Merits mailed 04/02/2002, the examiner indicated that reference number 7 corresponds to a baffle opening in Nelson et al. According to column 3 lines 51-51, the "[o]pening 7 is placed in communication with the outlet port or ports of the inflator (not shown)." Thus, reference number 7 refers to an inflator opening in Nelson et al. and not to a baffle opening. Applicants are not sure why reference number 2 was not utilized since it also refers to an inflator opening. Nevertheless, reference number 7 refers to an inflator opening in Figure 2 in Nelson et al.

For the inner airbags 4 in Nelson et al., gas leaves the inner airbag into the outer bag by gas outlet openings 2. The gas outlet openings 2 are created by seams. The gas leaves the inner airbag 4 in direction 8. Fig. 3. shows a top view of an uninflated inner airbag. As can be seen from this figure, gas flows from the inner airbag 4 in four different directions. Fig. 1